

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method for treating hepatitis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutic agent comprising, as the active ingredient, an antibody which can inhibit binding between an integrin recognizing the amino acid sequence RGD (amino acids 1-3 of SEQ ID NO:1) and osteopontin or a peptide fragment thereof and wherein the antibody can inhibit binding between an integrin recognizing the amino acid sequence SVVYGLR (nucleotides amino acids 4-10 of SEQ ID NO:1) and osteopontin or a peptide fragment thereof.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is an N-terminal fragment of osteopontin.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is a peptide that contains a peptide of the following (A):

(A) RGDSVVYGLR (SEQ ID: No.1).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the osteopontin or peptide fragment thereof is a peptide that contains a peptide of the following (B):

(B) VDTYDGRGDSVVYGLRS (SEQ ID: No.2).

Claim 29 -39 (Cancelled)

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 24, wherein the hepatitis is viral hepatitis or drug-induced hepatitis hepatitis.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24, wherein the hepatitis is autoimmune hepatitis.

Claim 42 (Cancelled).